

Remarks

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner restricted claims 1-55 into two groups. Group I contains claims 1-32 and 55 which are directed to a probe molecule having a target complementary portion, a template portion, at least one enzyme acting portion, with or without a 3' end block portion and wherein the template portion includes two identical or nearly identical sequences that are separated by at least one enzyme acting portion when the probe is linear, and a kit thereof. Group II contains claims 33-54 which are directed to a method of detecting a target nucleic acid sequence using the probes of any one of the preceding claims.

Applicant elects Group I, claims 1-32 and 55 without traverse. Applicant notes that the Examiner has restricted product and process claims, and that once the product claims are found allowable, the process claims including all the limitations of the allowed claims will be rejoined.

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 was amended to recite the template portions are "6 to 300 nucleotides in length". Basis for this amendment is found in the specification as originally filed, for example on page 23, first full paragraph after the heading "Template Portions".

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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Allowance of claims 1-55 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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